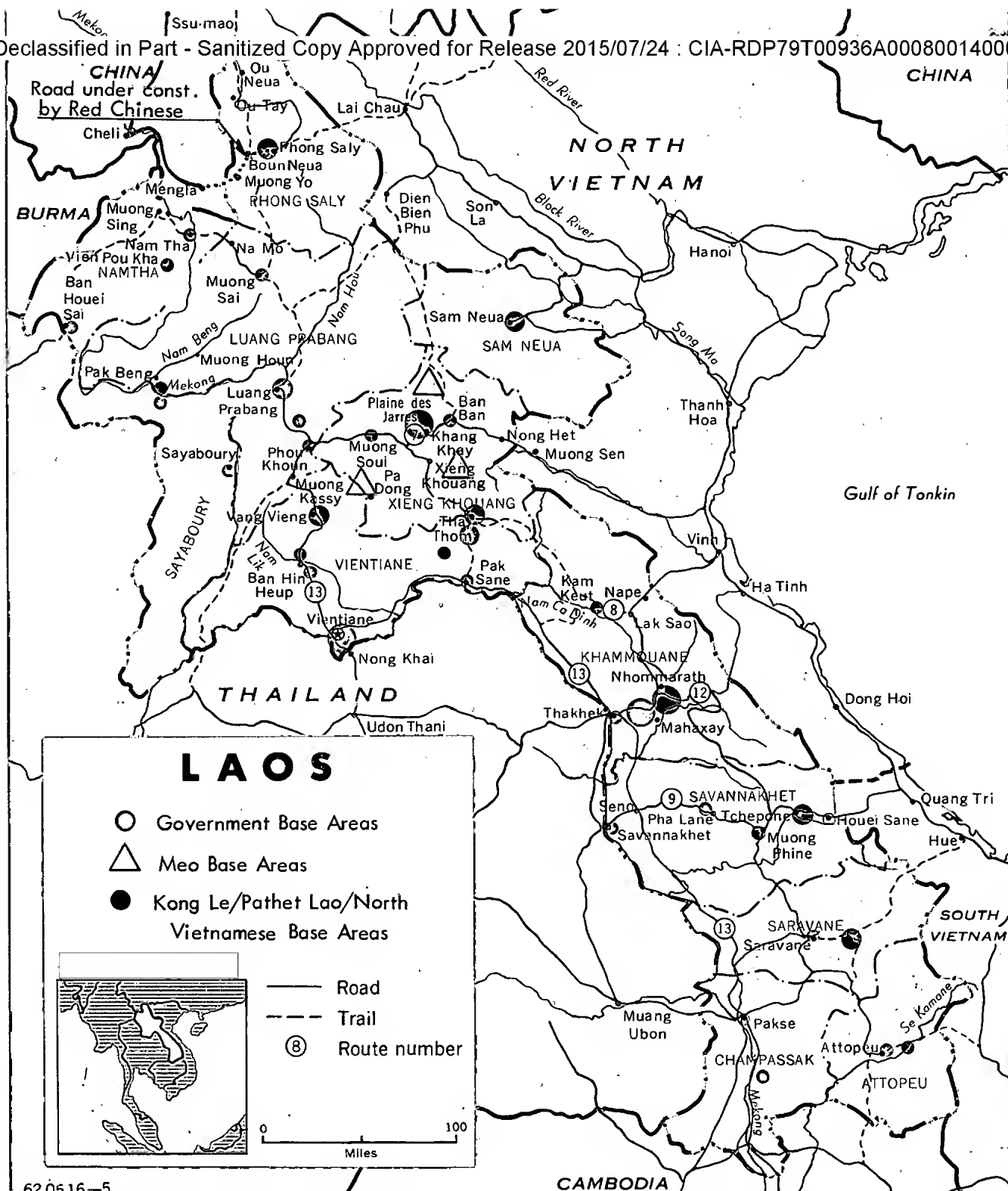


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

28 MAY 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. The US MAAG reports that the Royal Army unit which was driven out of a defensive position about 13 miles northeast of Ban Houei Sai by enemy forces yesterday offered almost no resistance. Two US noncommissioned officers who were among the 15 US advisors with the government force are missing.

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b. The government's hold on Saravane, in southern Laos, remains precarious as enemy elements continue to probe around its perimeter. In the Plaine des Jarres, Souvanna is readying a request to the King for an audience as a prelude to the convening of another Three Princes meeting.

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c. Souvanna has told the British ambassador that he will join the Pathet Lao in a declaration "insulting" to the West, hoping that in exchange the Pathet Lao will end its freeze-out of his military forces, particularly at Nam Tha. The statement he has in mind

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carried in today's edition of Pravda

quotes Souvanna as saying "I have been deeply moved by the fact that the head of the Soviet government understands the aspirations of Laos and takes a stand fully in accordance with

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(cont'd)

the national interests of the country";
and "If the American government would
fulfill our request not to give military
aid to Vientiane, Gen. (Phoumi) Nosavan
would never dare carry out any military
actions against us."

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2. West New Guinea



The knot in The Hague may now have been untied. Ambassador Rice reports after seeing Luns on Saturday that the Dutch foreign minister, though full of misgivings, has virtually conceded that with the right assurances the Netherlands will agree to the transfer of administration to Indonesia before a plebiscite is held. He indicated, in effect, that only Indonesia's military pressure tactics stood in the way of negotiations. Subandrio's initial public reaction, however, suggests that the Indonesians will try to wring from the Dutch explicit assurances on the transfer-of-administration issue.

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3. Chinese refugees



Chinese Communist border guard and army units have moved in to block off the approaches to Hong Kong,

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There seems still to be a sizable flow of would-be refugees into southern Kwangtung Province and some signs that part of the stream is taking the line of least resistance into Portuguese Macao, though at nowhere near the volume that hit Hong Kong.

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4. Brazil

President Goulart's troubles are multiplying. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] his failure to get a grip on the country's economic problems and the general slackness of central authority. Military leaders have begun to press him to name one of their number as prime minister, while state governors are planning to meet soon to consider ways to increase their authority at the expense of the center.

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5. Unstable governments in the Middle East

a. Qasim's fumbling leadership, especially his inept handling of the Kurdish insurrection, has sent his stock with the Iraqi military to a critical low. [REDACTED]

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b. The situation in Syria remains very shaky. Another cabinet minister has quit, bringing the total for the last week to three. The government has been making nervous military moves around Damascus. [REDACTED]

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6. Soviet earth
satellite

A new Soviet satellite, Sputnik
XVII, was put into orbit from the
Kapustin Yar launch site

We again have indications
that preparations for a space launching
are in progress at Tyuratam.

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NOTES

- A. We note signs of growing Communist concern over the strategic hamlet program in South Vietnam. Up to half of the communications on the network serving Viet Cong propaganda outlets are now concerned with combating the program. [redacted] *CIB, 28 May* 50X1
- B. Yugoslav Foreign Minister Popovic, due in Washington today, spent the bulk of his efforts in Latin America in trying to convince Brazil, Chile, Bolivia and Mexico that they belong in an association of "economic neutrals" rather than in a free trade area with the US. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
- C. Cheddi Jagan is trying to use UN assistance programs as a front for introducing Soviet advisors into British Guiana. He told UN officials when he was in New York recently that he wants additional Soviet bloc technicians as well as "left-of-center" economic planning experts. [redacted] 50X1
- D. A start has been made in equipping the Soviet Long Range Air Force with a new medium bomber designed for supersonic-dash performance. At least five of these aircraft (the BLINDER in US [redacted] 50X1 parlance) have been delivered to operational units. We believe, however, that the engine earmarked for the new bomber will not be ready until next year and that it is meanwhile operating well below its intended capability on a fill-in power unit. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
- E. Portuguese police rounded up a number of potential trouble-makers last night in an effort to check the public demonstrations scheduled for today. We have no word to indicate that the demonstrations have begun. [redacted] 50X1
- F. A Yugoslav spokesman states that Tito has been invited to "vacation" in the Soviet Union. We assume this means Tito, last in the Soviet Union in 1956, has accepted, thus signifying a further warming of Soviet-Yugoslav relations. [redacted] 50X1

For The President Only—Top Secret

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

I.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

For The President Only—Top Secret